

# THE EXPENSE INCURRED

BY THE APPOINTMENT OF

## High Commissioner of Canada,

### IN LONDON, ENGLAND.

## LUXURIES PROVIDED BY CANADIAN TAXPAYERS.

In 1880 Sir John Macdonald desired to have another vice-regal position at his disposal, and accordingly carried a Bill through Parliament authorizing the appointment of a Lord High Commissioner for Canada, with a permanent office in London, England, at an annual salary of \$10,000 and contingencies. He alleged that economy could be secured by the appointment of such an official, as he would act as agent for Canada, doing away with the occasion for members of the Government visiting England on public business, and that through him payments of interest on loans could be made, thus saving to the country the enormous sums paid to the Financial Agents of Canada for commissions, etc. Since then members of Sir John Macdonald's Cabinet have visited England more frequently than ever, and larger sums in commissions, etc., have been paid to the usual financial agent than previously. The public records prove that the High Commissionership cost the country, down to 1885, including contingencies, travelling expenses, residence, income and parochial taxes of the High Commissioner, etc., the enormous sum of \$114,740.

In 1883 Sir Charles Tupper, acting High Commissioner, conceived the idea of having the Government of Canada purchase and furnish an official residence for him in a fashionable location in London. Sir John Macdonald's Cabinet acted upon the suggestion, and, as a result of that expenditure, a Return was presented to the House of Commons during the Session of 1885, in accordance with a resolution proposed by the Hon. Mr. Blake, giving a detailed statement of the \$42,700 spent for that purpose. In that Return (No. 38, 1885), among many others of an equally reprehensible character, appear the following items:—

Cost of Residence and Furniture for High Commissioner, England .....	\$42,702 50
Stamps and Solicitor's charges for negotiating purchase of property, .....	\$551 00

## General Sanitary Work ..... \$1,137 00

Embracing the following items :

Water Closet and Lavatory on 3rd floor .....	\$92 00
" " " " 2nd " .....	72 00
Soil and main waste pipe.....	152 00
Drains .....	365 00

## Painting and Decorating Accounts ..... \$3,335 00

Including the following items :

4th Floor and rooms in roof .....	\$110 00
3rd " and cupboard .....	116 00
2nd " and bath room .....	157 00
Drawing Room and Parquet floor.....	464 00
Staircase, Hall and Water Closet .....	541 00
Basement.....	204 00
Larder .....	471 00
Repairing Electric Bells .....	57 00
Cupboard off 3rd Floor.....	52 00
Taking off defective Chimney Pot .....	37 00
Resetting Drawing Room Stove.....	8 86

## Furniture Account ..... \$11,616 00

Including the following details :

### 4th FLOOR.

Servants' Bedroom Furniture.....	\$152 00
" " Carpet .....	83 00

### 3rd FLOOR.

Left Back Room, Brussels Carpet.....	63 00
" " " Bedroom Suite, marble top washstand, &c... ..	251 00
" " " Curtains .....	32 00
Dressing Room adjoining, Brussels Carpet.....	54 00
" " " Curtains .....	32 00
" " " Furniture.....	243 00

Including Wardrobe..... \$71 00

Washstand..... 41 00

Drawers..... 53 00

Left Front Room, Brussels Carpet .....

" " " Furniture and Curtains .....

Right " " Total .....

### 2nd FLOOR.

Left Back Room, Brussels Carpet .....

" " " Curtains and Furniture.....

Including American Walnut Wardrobe.. \$194 00

American Walnut Dressing Table..... 121 00

American Walnut Washstand .....

Dressing Room adjoining, Carpet .....

" " " Curtains and Furniture.....

Including American Walnut Wardrobe.. \$104 00

Washstand..... 47 00

Drawers .....

Child's Cot .....

Right Front Bedroom and Dressing Room, Brussels Carpet .....	\$99 00
Curtains and Furniture .....	999 00
Including Brass Bedstead .....	\$32 00
Handsome Mahogany Suite .....	631 00
American Walnut Wardrobe .....	119 00
"        "        Dressing Table .....	41 00
"        "        Washstand .....	34 00
Drawing Rooms, complete .....	\$2,191 00
Including "a very fine" Persian Carpet .....	\$300 00
Silk Plush Curtains, etc. ....	300 00
Silver-plated Over Mantel, etc. ....	177 00
Walnut and Gold Cabinet .....	362 00
Mahogany Writing Table .....	118 00
Ebony Occasional Table .....	31 00
Inlaid Flower Stand .....	38 00
Conversation Sofa .....	123 00
Two Ottomans .....	144 00
Two Mahogany Chairs .....	37 00
Beauchamp Easy Chair, Divain, etc. ....	96 00
Four Easy Chairs, Tapestry and Velvet .....	104 00
Two Side Ottomans .....	172 00
Silk and Muslin Curtains .....	39 00
Two Side Tables .....	155 00

## Dining Room, Fittings

**\$1,091 00**

Including Axminster Carpet.....	\$182 00
Oak Dining Table.....	166 00
“ Coving “ .....	32 00
2 Dinner Wagons .....	190 00
Best silvered plate Chimney Glass.....	109 00
16 morocco covered chairs, @ \$16.28 each.....	260 00
Blue velvet Curtains.....	188 00

## Library Fittings

**\$1,096 00**

Including Curtains and Cathedral Stained glass, metal blind....	\$162 00
2 Oak Book-cases.....	365 00
Writing Table.....	91 00
Coffee Table.....	12 00
Easy Chair (Sebright).....	50 00
4 small chairs.....	46 00
Velvet Easy Chair.....	60 00
Conversation Spring Sofa.....	134 00
Mantel Glass .....	72 00

Best Brussels Carpet to Upper Landing and Water Closet.....	\$ 51 00
Brussels Stair " " " " " .....	119 00
Velvet pile Carpet, Landing, Water Closet and Bath Room.....	119 00
Stair Carpet to above, and Brass Rods.....	178 00
Carpet for Housekeeper's Room.....	32 00
Corticure for Kitchen Floor.....	41 00
Kitchen Table.....	28 00



Kitchen Closet.....	23 00
Fenders and Fire Irons.....	143 00

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**Laying Carpets, fixing Blinds and arranging Furniture** **\$211 00**

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**Accounts for Gas Fittings.....** **\$757 00**

Including Hall Lantern.....	\$40 00
Dining Room Chandeliers, etc.....	84 00
Drawing " ".....	133 00

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**Portion of account for Bedroom, Crockery, Glass-ware and Dinner-service.....** **\$405 00**

Including 2 sets Bed Room China, and Sponge Trays.....	\$51 00
236 Port, Sherry, Claret, Champagne Glasses, Finger and Ice Cups.....	60 00
22 Liquor Decanters.....	73 00

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**1 Dessert Set, Crown Derby, 18 pieces.....** **\$87 00**

Quilts and Blankets.....	\$47 00
Fancy Lamps, Dagmar Shades, etc.....	48 00
Turkey Carpet, 9 ft. x 13 ft.....	112 00
Persian Carpet, 25 ft. x 16 ft.....	244 00
Gilt Drawing Room Clock, Marble Dining Room Clock and Library Clock	168 00
No. 4 Cabinet Refrigerator.....	87 00
Making Wine Bin for 1008 bottles, and 1 doz. zinc labels.....	58 00
Fancy Glass Ware.....	\$33 00

Including Ruby Glass Flower Bowl.....	\$11 00
Liquor Bottle, richly cut.....	8 50
" " lettered "Brandy".....	4 00

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**Subscription to Ashburn Place Gardens for 1884.....** **\$9 72**

Parliament was not asked to consent to the purchase of this official residence until April, 1884, yet the Return proves that nearly all the expense was incurred prior to that date. A charge appears in the accounts of the purchasing Agent of \$848.00, for "Interest on Amount Expended" between Nov., 1883, and July, 1884.

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The following extracts from the Auditor-General's Report for 1885, under the head of "Contingencies, High Commissioner," furnish additional information of the character of the expenditure in that office.

Parochial rate to March 26th, 1885.....	\$412 99
Income Tax, Sir Charles Tupper.....	250 02

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It remains for the **overburdened tax-payers of Canada** to say whether they are satisfied with the **Tory leaders** providing their colleagues with such **luxurious dissipation at the public expense**, as the above extracts from documents presented to the House of Commons prove are **existing under the present regime**.

The **Electors** have the remedy in their own hands by lending their assistance to **drive from power** those who have **proved so recreant to the great trust** that was committed to their care in 1878.